

9/22/2008

Email submitted from: /bicy/parkmgmt/orv-advisory-committee.htm

This committee needs to know that implementation of this ORV Plan has been and continues to be very very destructive to our Trail Lakes Campground business located a few miles East of Big Cypress headquarters on US41 threatening its survival. Since the year 2000 our customers have been methodically and we believe purposefully banned from convenient access to the ORV trail system that NPS customers experience. This has put our business at a catastrophic disadvantage to NPS campgrounds at Big Cypress. Combining the convenient access disadvantage with the fact that NPS is selling campsites below their cost, essentially dumping camping opportunities similar to Japan dumping their government subsidized steel on the US economy years ago. The US economy suffered severe impact from Japan's actions. Trail Lakes Campground is suffering a worse situation due to the fact our terrible problem at Trail Lakes Campground (TLC) is caused by the "US" government through NPS actions. Additional cumulative negative impacts to our operations will result from the plans to enhance NPS's Burns Lake and Monument Lake campgrounds making them even more desirable to ORV campers and hunters visiting the area. Through this avenue of comment we would advise the ORV Committee to consider seriously the rapid re-connection of ORV trails (2477 Rights of Way) North and Southbound from TLC. These trails pre-date the Preserve's establishment. We do not believe that required economic or cultural impact assessments regarding our customer's need for equally convenient access to these trails was ever studied as per federal laws prior to finalization of the ORV Plan. We understand the trail North of US41 we are referring to was also recommended by the public at public meetings about ORV trails and that it is located within a zone closed to ORV's by the ORV. All that we request from the ORV committee is to support advising NPS to incorporate the trail they are aware of for more study now rather than years from now, as an act of fairness on your part to a local business struggling to compete on an NPS created UNLEVEL playing field. If this process must be slowed down to do the right thing than so be it.

Sincerely

Owners Trail Lakes Campground

PH# 239-695-2275